

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 241626

64

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM TH

CINCPAC HONO

TREASURY

COGARD WASHDC

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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COGARD FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 1 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. CHINA

ARTICLE IN HK ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDITION OF TA KUNG PAO
THURSDAY ANNOUNCED THAT BOTH LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN PIAO
ARE "DEAD PHYSICALLY AS WELL AS POLITICALLY." WP'S
GREENWAY, IN HK, NOTES IT IS FIRST TIME, SO FAR AS
CHINA-WATCHERS THERE AWARE, THAT PRC HAS OFFICIALLY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 241626

ADMITTED LIU'S DEATH; PREVIOUSLY, CHINESE OFFICIALS WOULD SAY ONLY THAT HE WAS "POLITICALLY DEAD." GREENWAY SAYS SOME CHINA-WATCHERS SPECULATE THAT REASON FOR REFERRING TO LIU'S DEATH AT SUCH LATE DATE MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH PAVING WAY FOR NPC TO DESIGNATE NEW CHIEF OF STATE WHEN IT MEETS. SO FAR AS CHINA-WATCHERS CAN DETERMINE, CHINESE PUBLIC STILL HAS NOT BEEN TOLD LIU IS DEAD. POINTS OUT THAT OLD ISSUE THAT DROVE MAO AND LIU APART -- WHETHER TO STRESS IDEOLOGY OR PRODUCTION, STRUGGLE OR UNITY -- HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED, AND CONFLICT SEEMS LIKELY TO CONTINUE. FRANK CHING (NYT), IN HK, REPORTS THAT COMMUNIST SOURCE THERE, ASKED FOR INFO ON LIU'S DEATH, REPLIED: "WE DON'T HAVE ANY DETAILS," BUT LIU "WAS SICK AND AFTERWARD HE PASSED AWAY" (ABRIDGED IN SUN).

JOC (HK) REPORTS EXPERIENCED TRADERS AT CANTON FAIR PREDICTING THAT BUSINESS WILL BE LOWEST IN SEVERAL YEARS, AND REASON IN MOST CASES IS THAT CHINESE PRICES HAVE NOT DECLINED AS MUCH AS EXPECTED; ALSO, CHINESE INTEREST IN BUYING WAS REPORTED TO HAVE DECLINED, AND FOR SOME UNKNOWN REASON SUPPLIES OF CHEMICALS AND RAW MATERIALS HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY UNOBTAINABLE. STILL, THERE ARE BRIGHT POINTS AT CANTON FAIR. PRICE OF MEN'S SHIRTS HAS DECLINED 20 PERCENT, AND IVORY AND JADE CARVINGS 24 PERCENT. ON OTHER HAND, SOYBEAN PRICE HAS RISEN, AND JAPANESE TRADERS ARE UNDERSTOOD NOT BUYING; SIMILARLY, RAW SILK IS BEING OFFERED JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN AT 26 RMB MORE THAN PRICE OFFERED EUROPEAN BUYERS. SUCH PRICE DIFFERENCES COMMON AT FAIR, BUT GENERALLY DISCRIMINATION IS BETWEEN "DEVELOPED" AND "DEVELOPING" NATIONS. NOT CLEAR WHETHER PRC CONSIDERS MALAYSIA IN "DEVELOPING" CATEGORY, YET QUITE A FEW MALAYSIAN TRADERS HAVE LEFT FAIR WITHOUT MAKING PURCHASES AND HAVE REPORTED HIGHER PRICES. BUT LAST WEEKS OF FAIR ARE WHEN MAJOR TRANSACTIONS ARE TRADITIONALLY CONCLUDED, AND AS FAIR DRAWS TO CLOSE, PRICES GENERALLY EASE SOMEWHAT.

CSM REPORTS US-PRC AGREEMENT REACHED ON CHINESE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT HERE, "AFTER MONTHS OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 241626

DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS."

WP REPORTS PRC'S RELEASE OF 24 S. KOREAN FISHERMEN DETAINED FOR 17 DAYS AFTER BEACHING THEIR SHIP IN STORM.

NOTING GIMO OBSERVED 87TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY THURSDAY,

PHINQ CARRIES UPI PHOTO MADE LAST MAY, AND NOTES HE HAS NOT MADE PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE JULY 1972.

2. KOREA

RIOT POLICE USE TEAR GAS TO DRIVE 2,000 ROCK-THROWING STUDENTS BACK TO CAMPUS (CHITRIB, CSM, PHINQ) AS FIVE STUDENTS AND FOUR POLICE INJURED IN SECOND DAY OF DEMONSTRATIONS AT YONSEI. CLASSES SUSPENDED AT THREE MORE COLLEGES IN SEOUL AND ONE IN PUSAN, BRING TOTAL CLOSED TO NINETEEN.

SEIDEN (SUN) REPORTS THAT GOVT AND ANTI-GOVT FORCES MOBILIZING TO MAKE MOST OF FORD VISIT (3-COLUMN PHOTO OF YONSEI DEMONSTRATION.) GOVT HOPES TO CONVINCE PUBLIC THAT FORD ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTS REGIME, DESPITE GROWING CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM. ANTI-GOVT FORCES HOPE TO SHOW FORD THAT "LARGE SEGMENT" OF PEOPLE ARE "DEEPLY OPPOSED" TO PARK RULE. QUOTES KIM TAE-CHUNG THAT "DEMOCRATIC FORCES NEED FORD'S UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT TO SUCCEED." ANTI-GOVT FORCES BELIEVE IT RELATIVELY SAFE TO DEMONSTRATE IN PRE-FORD PERIOD, BUT FEAR "POST-FORD MASSACRE."

OBERDORFER (WP) REPORTS FROM SEOUL THAT NOVELIST LEE HO-CHUL RELEASED FROM PRISON ON "SUSPENDED SENTENCE TERMS" BY APPEALS COURT. LEE WAS SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IN JUNE ON CHARGES OF VIOLATING SECURITY LAWS BY WRITING FOR JAPANESE MAGAZINE.

LEE AND FOUR OTHER WRITERS WERE ARRESTED FOR ESPIONAGE IN JANUARY AFTER PETITIONING FOR END TO ONE-MAN PARK RULE. PARK HAD RESPONDED BY BANNING ALL OPPOSITION TO MARTIAL-LAW CONSTITUTION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 241626

3. JAPAN

REUTER WASHINGTON REPORTS WH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRES TO CONFER TWICE WITH TANAKA AND VISIT KYOTO DURING JAPAN VISIT, WITH EMPEROR TO HOST DINNER AND TANAKA LUNCHEON. AFTER 2-DAY KOREAN VISIT FORD TO FLY TO UNDISCLOSED LOCATION NEAR VLADIVOSTOK FOR TWO-DAY WORKING MEET WITH BREZHNEV.

WHITLAM GREETES TANAKA ON ARRIVAL IN CANBERRA ONSIX-DAY VISIT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN'S MAJOR RAW MATERIAL SUPPLIER. VISIT FOLLOWS INCONCLUSIVE THREE-DAY VISIT TO NEW ZEALAND (NYT)

TANAKA AND WHITLAM DISCUSS INCREASE IN BILATERAL TRADE. AT PARLIAMENTARY LUNCH TANAKA SAYS IT "ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTE MUTUAL TRUST AND COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO NATIONS, BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING," AND SIGNS JAPAN'S FIRST CULTURAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRALIA (REUTER CANBERRA).

SWEENEY (WP-SYDNEY) REPORTS TANAKA AIMS TO SECURE LONG-TERM ACCESS TO AUSTRALIAN RAW MATERIALS. IN GOOD WILL GESTURE HOURS BEFORE TANAKA ARRIVAL, GOVT ANNOUNCED NEW POLICY WHICH PERMITS RESUMPTION OF URANIUM EXPORTS TO JAPAN WHICH HAD BEEN BANNED BY GOA. OFFICIALS HOPE TANAKA VISIT WILL BROADEN BILATERAL RELATIONS BEYOND PRESENT NARROW COMMERCIAL TIES. NO DEMONSTRATIONS ON ARRIVAL, DESPITE RECENT JAPANESE BAN ON AUSTRALIAN BEEF IMPORTS AND CUTBACK IN WOOL BUYING WHICH HAS LED TO RECESSION IN AGRICULTURE. TRADE

BALANCE HEAVILY IN AUSTRALIA'S FAVOR, AS JAPAN ACCOUNTS FOR 31 PERCENT OF AUSTRALIA'S EXPORTS, CHIEFLY RAW MATERIALS. SWEENEY SAYS VISIT OFFERS BOTH LEADERS CHANCE TO RECOUP SAGGING POLITICAL FORTUNES.

GOJ ANNOUNCES LONG-RANGE PROGRAM TO DEVELOP CHEAP COMMERCIAL PROCESS TO EXTRACT URANIUM OXIDES FROM SEA WATER (REUTER, WP).

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 05 STATE 241626

MRS. TRUDEAU CHRISTENS 237,000-TON TANKER AT SHIPYARD IN TOKYO BAY (AFP, WP).

WSJ TOKYO REPORTS HONDA SUSPENDS PRODUCTION OF MICRO-MINI-CARS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF MODELS FOR EXPORT TO US FROM 4,000 TO 5,000 UNITS PER MONTH.

DAVIS (JOC) REPORTS APL PRES SCOTT STATEMENT AT TOKYO MARITIME CONFERENCE THAT US CARRIERS' SHARE OF PACIFIC TRADE "DISPROPORTIONATELY SMALL AND SHRINKING." CHARGES US ANTI-TRUST POLICY ENCOURAGES OVER-COMPETITION ON LUCRATIVE ROUTES.

JOC TOKYO REPORTS GOJ DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR JAPANESE FIRMS ISSUING YEN BONDS UNDER PRIVATE PLACEMENT TO ARAB OIL PRODUCERS TO ALLEVIATE BOP PROBLEM.

4. PHILIPPINES

JOC'S NAMBEIL, IN MANILA, SAYS PHILIPPINES IS EMBARKED

ON POLICY OF DIVERSIFYING FOREIGN MARKETS IN EFFORT TO INSULATE HERSELF FROM ADVERSE WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. NEED HEIGHTENED IN RECENT MONTHS WHEN JAPAN AND US CUT BACK ON IMPORTATION OF PHILIPPINE PLYWOOD AND COPPER; ANOTHER IMPORTANT INITIAL EFFORT HAS BEEN GOP'S RAPPROCHEMENT WITH PRC. IN ANTICIPATION OF POSSIBLE US-CUBA RAPPROCHEMENT AND POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN PHILIPPINE SUGAR SALES TO US, MANILA IS EXPANDING SUGAR-MARKETING EFFORT IN SK, JAPAN, PRC, MALAYSIA AND SRI LANKA.

UPI (MANILA) REPORTS GOP THURSDAY APPROVED SERVICE CONTRACT WITH DENVER-BASED TRENDS CORP TO SEARCH FOR OIL IN MILLION-ACRE OFFSHORE CONCESSION 200 MILES SE OF MANILA (JOC).

5. INDOCHINA

STREET CLASHES IN SAIGON GET EXTENSIVE COVERAGE, WITH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 241626

MOST PAPERS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYING PHOTOS.

POLICE MOVE AGAINST ANTI-GVN DEMONSTRATORS PREPARING BIG SAIGON MARCH; DOZENS INJURED IN CLASHES. THIEU LATER PROMISED TO FIGHT CORRUPTION BUT WARNED THAT CONTINUED PROTESTS COULD TOPPLE REGIME AND LET IN COMMUNISTS (WSJ). RIOTS PUT SAIGON UNDER SIEGE AS HEAVILY-ARMED COMBAT POLICE CALLED OUT FOR FIRST TIME DURING CURRENT UNREST TO QUELL STREET DISTURBANCES. THIEU REMAINS CLOISTERED IN HEAVILY-GUARDED PALACE (UPI, BALTO N-A 10/31). SCORES REPORTED HURT IN POLICE SHOW OF FORCE TO HALT TWO-MONTH-LONG ANTI-GOVT DEMONSTRATIONS. POLICE MOVE ON RALLYING POINTS FOR GROUPS PLANNING MASSIVE DOWNTOWN MARCH AND CLASHES BREAK OUT AS ARRESTS MADE OR DEMONSTRATORS SEALED OFF. DOWNTOWN STREETS BARRICADED (AP, GLOBE). RC PRIESTS, NEWSMEN, DEPUTIES AND STUDENTS BEATEN IN POLICE BATTLES. OPPOSITION DEPUTY DESCRIBES APPARENT END TO PARLIAMENTARY IMMUNITY AS SERIOUS. REV THANH ACKNOWLEDGES POLICE SUCCESSFUL IN CLAMPDOWN BUT SEES IT AS THIEU'S LAST ATTEMPT TO KEEP CONTROL AND NOW HE CAN "RULE ONLY WITH BLOOD" AND HIS DAYS ARE NUMBERED. US EMBASSY ORDERS DAO EMPLOYEES TO STAY OUT OF DOWNTOWN AREA TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT (PHINQ).

MCCOMBS (WP) QUOTES THIEU IN TOUGH NATIONAL DAY SPEECH THAT PROTESTING "THIRD-FORCE" GROUPS ARE POLITICAL OFFSPRING OF COMMUNISTS AND COLONIALISTS AND LED BY

OPPORTUNISTS AND PROFITEERS. MCCOMBS NOTES THAT "COLONIALISTS" IS WORD UNDERSTOOD BY MOST VIETS TO MEAN AMERICANS. THIEU ALSO SAID THAT PURPOSE OF PROTESTS IS TO TOPPLE REGIME AND SET UP COALITION THAT WOULD LET COMMUNISTS TAKE OVER; ASSERTED THIRD-FORCE CONCEPT WAS PUSHED BY HANOI IN NEGOTIATIONS, AND SURFACED AS "VAGUE REFERENCE" IN PARIS AGREEMENT. THIEU CALLED ON PEOPLE NOT TO SUPPORT PROTESTS AND WARNED THAT FROM NOW ON GOVT WILL PRESERVE SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER "TO THE MAXIMUM." HE FURTHER INDICATED HE WAS NOT CONTEMPLATING RESIGNATION, PROMISED THAT ANT-CORRUPTION MEASURES WOULD CONTINUE; AND THAT HE WOULD "SEEK" AMENDMENTS TO LAWS LIMITING PRESS FREEDOM AND POLITICAL PARTIES.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 07 STATE 241626

ISAACS (SUN) SEES STILL ANOTHER CONCESSION TO OPPONENTS IN THIEU PROMISES TO REVISE REPRESSIVE POLITICAL PARTY AND PRESS LAWS. REPORTS THAT NATL DAY SPEECH CAME AT HIGH-POINT OF PROTESTS, WITH WORST INCIDENT OCCURRING AT RC CHURCH NEAR TAN SON NHUT WHERE REV THANH PLANNED MARCH. ISAACS BELIEVES THAT LAWS WILL BE REVISED, SINCE THIEU DOMINATES ASSEMBLY. NOTES THAT PROTEST WAVE AIMED

PARTLY AT LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THREE SAIGON PAPERS, AND THAT THIEU CLUNG TO HARD, UNYIELDING ANTI-COMMUNIST LINE IN SPEECH AND HELD OUT NO HOPE OF COMPROMISE TO END FIGHTING.

MARKHAM (NYT) FROM SAIGON REPORTS THAT ABOUT 75 CIVILIANS BELIEVED INJURED IN CLASHES PROMPTED BY PRE-EMPTIVE MOVES BY POLICE, WHO ABANDONED PREVIOUS POLICY OF ACCOMMODATION. SAYS UNCLEAR WHY POLICE GAVE UP SEEMINGLY SUCCESSFUL HANDS-OFF POLICY TO RAID PRESS CLUB, AND SOME VIETS SPECULATE THAT THIEU PROBABLY FELT THAT THERE WAS NO NEED, AFTER HAVING MADE MAJOR CONCESSIONS, TO LET HIS ENEMIES PARADE AROUND SAIGON AND DENOUNCE HIM; OTHERS SUGGEST POLICE OVER-REACTION. SEES REV THANH AS SOMETHING OF OPPOSITION SYMBOL, RECORDS HIS FIRST PUBLIC DEMAND THAT THIEU RESIGN. NOTES THAT NEWSPAPER TRIAL HAS BEEN POSTPONED BECAUSE GVN PROSECUTOR SAID HE "HAD NOT COMPLETED HIS BRIEF." INTERPRETS TONE OF THIEU SPEECH AS CLEAR WARNING THAT OPPONENTS COULD NOT EXPECT FUTURE INDULGENCE, BUT ALSO CITES THIEU'S APPEAL TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS, OFFICIALS, AND "NOTABLES" TO ADVISE HIM CONSTRUCTIVELY HOW TO EASE SVN'S REAL PROBLEMS.

SOUTHERLAND (CSM) DESCRIBES CLASHES, NOTES THAT RC PRIESTS NOW CALL FOR THIEU'S RESIGNATION AND NOT JUST END TO CORRUPTION. BUT SEVERAL VETERAN OBSERVERS

BELIEVE CURRENT PROTEST MOVEMENT HAS LONG WAY TO GO BEFORE IT POSES SERIOUS THREAT TO THIEU, SINCE DEMONSTRATIONS RELATIVELY SMALL SO FAR AND VARIOUS PROTEST GROUPS FAR FROM UNITED. THIEU HAS MADE NUMBER OF CONCESSIONS, NEVERTHELESS, THAT INDICATE HE IS TAKING MOVEMENT SERIOUSLY. OPPOSITION GROUPS CONVINCED THAT THIEU IS IN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 241626

WEAKENED POSITION BECAUSE OF NIXON'S FALL AND CONGRESSIONAL AID CUTS. SOME VIETS THINK US SUPPORTS PROTESTS IN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN SVN. BUT PROTESTERS HAMPERED BY PROBLEMS, INCLUDING FACT THAT AN QUANG BUDDHISTS BROUGHT TO STANDSTILL BY LEADERSHIP SPLITS AND ARE SUSPICIOUS OF RCS.

CDN'S KEYES BEECH (10/29) SEES THIEU DEPRIVED OF NIXON "SECURITY BLANKET," UNDER ATTACK, AND IN TROUBLE. SAYS THIEU HAS NOT LOST "MANDATE OF HEAVEN" BECAUSE HE NEVER HAD IT; REAL PROBLEM IS THAT SVN IS ROTTEN SOCIETY, "CORRUPT TO THE CORE," AND CAUSE OF PRESENT UNREST IS FEAR THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT. BELIEVES NEW FEATURE OF PROTESTS IS THAT THEY ARE SPEARHEADED BY RIGHT-WING RCS, AND SOME VIETS BELIEVE THAT THIS MAKES HIM LOOK LIKE LOSER. BUT THIEU IS CRAFTY AND HAS BY NO MEANS LOST

HIS GRIP; AND OPPOSITION FRAGMENTED, BUT POLITICAL MALAISE IS LIKELY TO GROW RATHER THAN DIMINISH. NOTES THAT NOT ALL RCS SUPPORT THANH, BELIEVES IT MISTAKE TO DRAW PARALLEL BETWEEN DIEM OVERTHROW AND CURRENT CAMPAIGN DESPITE SIMILARITIES, SINCE HE SEES NO "LUST FOR BLOOD", AND NOBODY WANTS COUP. OPPONENTS JUST WANT THIEU TO STEP DOWN TO GIVE SOMEONE ELSE CHANCE. MOREOVER, US EMBASSY WAS AGAINST DIEM AND NOW, IF IT SUPPORTS ANYBODY IT IS THIEU SINCE HE IS PRES. AND "NOBODY CAN THINK OF ANYONE WHO COULD DO A BETTER JOB." QUOTES POLITICIAN THAT WITH US "COW" GONE, SVN CANNOT AFFORD CORRUPTION; WHAT PEOPLE WANT MOST IS PEACE BUT COMMUNISTS REFUSE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THIEU, SO AS LONG AS HE IS IN PEACE WILL NEVER COME.

UPI SAIGON DISCUSSES EVENTS SINCE HAK PROMISED "PEACE IS AT HAND," NOTES THAT MANY THINGS HAVE HAPPENED BUT PEACE "WAS NOT ONE OF THEM." COMMUNISTS FIRST SAID THAT THEY WOULD WORK WITH THIEU BUT NOW SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT, AND THIEU HAS ALSO CHANGED MIND ABOUT WORKING WITH COMMUNISTS FOR PEACE. REVIEWS CONTINUING US AID, ONGOING HOSTILITIES, AND CONCLUDES THAT PEACE IS "MISSING IN ACTION" (BALTO N-A 10/31).

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 09 STATE 241626

6. GENERAL

MCELHENY (NYT) VISITING HYDERABAD AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE, REPORTS SCIENTISTS' OPTIMISM THAT MIRACLE RICE YIELDS CAN BE INCREASED TO KEEP PACE WITH EXPECTED GROWTH OF RICE-DEPENDENT ONE-THIRD OF WORLD POPULATION.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. INDOCHINA

CITING GVN'S RENEWED STRONGARM TACTICS AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS AND FIRING OF FOUR CABINET MINISTERS, 377 MIL OFFICERS AND THREE CORPS COMMANDERS WITHIN WEEK, SUN CONCLUDES THAT "SIGNS OF ROT" IN SAIGON REGIME'S UNDERPINNINGS "ARE BECOMING UNMISTAKABLE." EVENTS SEEM MOVING TOWARDS THIEU'S GREATEST TEST SINCE HE TOOK FULL CHARGE, AND STRATEGIC QUESTION IS WHETHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS WILL SETTLE FOR "OLD MUSICAL CHAIRS OR SUCCESSFULLY INSIST ON A GENUINE CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE." SUN FEELS US ROLE IN ALL THIS IS BOUND TO BE MATTER OF GRAVE SUSPICION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF DIEM OVERTHROW. SAYS THIEU, TOO, HAS IN PAST BEEN "TOO MUCH OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY'S DARLING. AND WHILE IT IS COMMENDABLE THAT AT LEAST WE ARE TAKING A MORE ALOOF STANCE TOWARD THIEU, WE MUST NOT LET THE PARALLELISM GO ANY FURTHER. THIS TIME THERE MUST BE NO US INTERVENTION EITHER TO RETAIN OR TO OUST A VIETNAMESE PRESIDENT."

8. CHINA

HEARST'S KINGSBURY SMITH, IN ROME, SUGGESTS THAT FORD'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET BREZHNEV IN VLADIVOSTOK "MAY RUFFLE PEKING'S FEATHERS" AND CAUSE "FURTHER COOLING OFF IN CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS." SAYS EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS FAMILIAR WITH PRC'S CONCERN ABOUT US-SOVIET SUMMIT MEETINGS IN GENERAL, AND ITS "SENSITIVITY" ABOUT VLADIVOSTOK IN PARTICULAR, ARE "SURPRISED" THAT HAK WOULD AGREE TO LET FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING OCCUR IN PORT THAT FORMERLY BELONGED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 241626

TO CHINA. MAO "HAS NEVER RENOUNCED CHINA'S CLAIM" TO VLADIVOSTOK, AND HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS

AMONG UNSETTLED BOUNDARY ISSUES WITH SOVIET. SMITH
CONTENDS THAT FORD VISIT "NOT ONLY IMPLIES" THAT
US RECOGNIZES PORT BELONGS TO SOVIET, "BUT IT WILL
TEND TO FOCUS WORLD ATTENTION ON THE CITY AS SOVIET
TERRITORY. IT IS THE TYPE OF PRECEDENT THE KREMLIN
WOULD CITE IN AN ARGUMENT WITH THE CHINESE..."

SMITH ADDS THAT VLADIVOSTOK VISIT, COMING AT TIME
WHEN THERE ARE INCREASING SIGNS "BLOOM IS OFF THE
FLOWERING" OF IMPROVED SINO-US RELATIONS, COULD
STRENGTHEN PRC RADICAL ELEMENTS, WHO OPPOSED
OPENING TOWARD US AND WHO VIEW US-SOVIET DETENTE
WITH PROFOUND SUSPICION; AND SUMMIT ON CHINA'S DOORSTEP
"IS LIKELY TO BE REGARDED AS A DELIBERATE AFFRONT"
TO PEKING. "FOR SOME TIME NOW THERE HAS BEEN A
STEADY DECLINE IN PEKING'S POST-NIXON VISIT FRIENDLY
ATTITUDE" TOWARDS US: MORE FREQUENT REFERENCES TO
US AS IMPERIALIST SUPER-POWER HAVE APPEARED IN
CHINESE PRESS; EARLIER THIS YEAR AT UN, TENG DENOUNCED
US AND SOVIET "SUPERPOWERS"; LAST MAY PEKING REQUESTED
MARINE GUARDS BE WITHDRAWN FROM USLO; AND NCNA "HAS
ALMOST CEASED" REPORTING CORDIAL CONTACTS BETWEEN
AMERICANS AND CHINESE.

ACCORDING SMITH, DIPLOMATIC REPORTS FROM PEKING HAVE
ATTRIBUTED "CHANGE IN CHINA'S ATTITUDE" TO CONCERN OVER
CLOSER SOVIET-US COOPERATION -- WHICH HAS LED TO
SUSPICION THAT CHIEF US INTEREST IN DETENTE WITH PEKING
WAS TO USE IT TO STRENGTHEN US HAND IN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH KREMLIN. "PEKING'S PIQUE OVER THESE AND OTHER

DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING COMMUNIST CHINA ARE NOT LIKELY
TO BE LESSENED BY THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING" (BOSTON
H-A, OCT 30). INGERSOLL

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